

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 /086 W
-----022711 191158Z /53

R 171753Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 9129

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: LOCKHEED CASE

1. IN THE SHADOWS OF THE MORO KIDNAPPING AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT HAS BEEN HEARING TESTIMONY SINCE MAY 2 AGAINST THOSE, INCLUDING EX-MINISTERS LUIGI GUI AND MARIO TANASSI, CHARGED WITH RECEIVING BRIBES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALES OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT TO ITALY. UNTIL MAY 16, LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE EMERGED FROM THE PROCEEDINGS.

2. THE FIRST POTENTIALLY SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TRIAL BEGAN TO EMERGE WITH THE START OF TESTIMONY ON MAY 16 BY OVIDIO LEFEBVRE, ONE OF THE CENTRAL FIGURES OF THE ALLEGED SCANDAL AND THE ONLY ONE PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN PRISON. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, LEFEBVRE REPORTED DELIVERING IN 1971 TO THE OUTER OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (TANASSI) THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED MILLION LIRE WHICH ALLEGEDLY WAS DESTINED FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY COFFERS. (LEFEBVRE NOTED IN HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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TESTIMONY THAT AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND INFERRED THAT PAYOFFS TO POLITICAL PARTIES WERE A NORMAL PART OF DOING BUSINESS IN ITALY.) IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHOM THE MONEY WAS GIVEN, LEFEBVRE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO REFRESH HIS MEMORY, WOULD THINK IT OVER IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING IN HIS CELL AND ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A REPLY TO THE COURT ON MAY 17.

3. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO OPEN COURT TESTIMONY LINKING
ANY AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY DETAILS OF THE
ALLEGED PAYOFFS.GARDNER

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